



Jennings Co. Schools

II. Project Abstract

Briefly (500 words maximum) describe the proposed project clearly and concisely using the space provided.

The key to this project is to provide technology to teachers as a means to immediately assess the students' understanding of skills that are being taught within a lesson. Technology, whether it is software or hardware, must be used as a tool for learning. To accomplish this use, technology must be a means of sharing content, providing instruction, and assessing understanding.

The priorities for this project will be to:

- Promote the use of technology by embracing instructional strategies that cause every student to become involved in the daily lessons and projects within the classroom.
- Technology will be utilized to engage every student in the focused learning that is occurring within the classroom. Immediate feedback regarding the level of understanding within the classroom can be seen and development of concepts that are not understood can be addressed.
- Technology will be utilized to access digital content from various sources such as multimedia, internet sites, teacher created materials, etc. that can be accessed to enhance and expand students understanding and learning opportunities.
- With improved access to resources through technology, engaging lessons can be created that further enhance instructional effectiveness and student learning.

To aide in accomplishing these priorities, hardware is being sought through this grant to permit sixth and seventh grade teachers to create lessons that will permit them to engage and interact with their students immediately. For students to evidence improved performance on assessments, teaching staff need immediate feedback relative to student understanding of the concepts being taught. In addition teachers, need to be able to utilize technology to access sources to reinforce and deepen student understanding of those concepts.

Jennings County School Corporation has worked hard to improve its technological infrastructure. Computer labs are provided in every school. Students and teachers have access to computer stations within every classroom. In addition, JCSC has increased bandwidth to all of its schools. JCSC has piloted on-line assessments in some of its schools. JCSC was among those school corporations selected to pilot DIBELS and Acuity assessments. Furthermore, JCSC has other software based assessments such as SRA Reading, Accelerated Math, Accelerated Reading, Plato, etc. that are used to check student understanding and progress. Understanding how to utilize these assessments and the instructional resources associated with them is key to creating lessons that are engaging and that enhance student learning.

To enhance the ability of teachers to better utilize the resources available to them, on-going professional development is needed. These resources include such software and internet sites as Study Island, Acuity, eInstruction, textbook software, Interwrite Mobi, etc. Through this project, one component will be the utilization of trainers to teach staff how to utilize the hardware and software that is available to staff to improve instruction and lesson development. To further aide in professional development, the trainers will create training modules that a staff member can access from the corporation network. These training modules can then be used to further stimulate staff understanding of the technology that is available.